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Fifty-first session
Agenda items 8 and 97 (b)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Note by the President of the General Assembly

1. In its resolution 51/181, which was adopted by consensus on 16 December 1996, the General Assembly recognized, inter alia, the important contributions made by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and invited the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for the effective involvement of major groups in the nineteenth special session of the Assembly.

2. On the basis of the mandate given to me by the General Assembly in resolution 51/181 and following consultations with Member States, I have the honour to submit herewith for the consideration of the Assembly the text of a draft decision, which I propose to be considered under agenda item 97 (b), Environment and sustainable development: special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

3. In order for the General Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 97 (b).

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ANNEX

Draft decision

Participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 51/181 of 16 December 1996, in which it recognized, inter alia, the important contributions made by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recalling also that in the same resolution it invited the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for the effective involvement of major groups in the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly:

(a) Decides that major groups, including non-governmental organizations, will be invited to participate in the plenary meeting of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly in the debate on an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;[a]

(b) Decides also that major groups, including non-governmental organizations, that cannot be accommodated in the debate on an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 in the plenary meeting of the nineteenth special session may be invited to address the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the special session;

(c) Invites the President of the General Assembly to extend invitations to representatives of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, to participate in the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;

(d) Decides that arrangements concerning the participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the Assembly.

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[a] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.